

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on March 4, 2004. Claims 6-11 and 13-18 are pending and stand rejected in this Application. Claim 6 is amended and Claim 18 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment.

Summarizing the outstanding Office Action, Claims 6 and 18 were rejected on a statutory-double-patenting basis. Claims 6 and 18 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of each other. Claims 6-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants' representative on April 8, 2004. During the interview, Amendments to the claims as herein presented were proposed. Although an agreement was not reached, the Examiner, Mr. Drew E. Becker, indicated on the interview summary (form PTO 413) that Applicants' representative and the Examiner "discussed the 112(1) rejections and duplicate claims 6 and 18. Claims 6 and 18 appear to be similar in scope. Applicants will likely amend the claims to remove these issues. The limitation of a single blower appears to be supported by the specification and would likely remove the 112(1) rejection."

Claim 6 has been amended to recite "at least a first variable output blower" and Claim 18 has been canceled. In view of the amendment to Claim 6 and cancellation of Claim 18, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-noted objections and rejections of the pending claims in this Application are now moot. Their withdrawal and reconsideration is respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner disagrees, he is invited to telephone the

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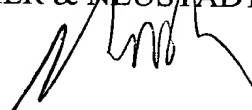
undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually acceptable language for Claim 6.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 6-11 and 13-17 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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